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view that the State has no relation to God, and is under no obligation to the moral law, a theory inconsistent with the powers and functions of the State, and with the whole history of the American people.

Secretary R. J. George, of the National Reform Association, gave a fervid and beautiful address on "The Kingly Authority of Christ." In this, as in nearly all the other addresses, the central idea and inspiration of the National Reform movement was shown to be loyalty to Jesus Christ as the actual Ruler of this and of all nations.

Other addresses were made by Judge M. B. Hagans, of Cincinnati, on "The Civil Sabbath;" by President Scovel, of Wooster University, on "The Limitations of Liberty;" or the true balancing of liberty and law; by Dr. C. R. Blackall, of the American Baptist Publication Society, on "Roman Catholic Parochial Education;" by Dr. R. M. Luther, on "Christian Governments and Foreign Missions;" by Mary T. Lathrop, President of the Michigan W. C. T. U., on "Gospel Politics;" by O. P. Fitzgerald, D. D., of Nashville, Tenn., on "The Race Problem in the Light of Christianity;" by Rev. R. B. Howard, of Boston, on the "Unchristian Character of the War-System;" by Rev. R. M. Somerville, D. D., of New York, on "The Christian Doctrine of Civil Sovereignty;" by Rev. Jonathan Edwards, D. D., of Meadville, Penn., on "The Nature and Sanctity of the Judicial Oath;" by Rev. H. T. Cheever, D. D., Worcester, Mass., on "Prohibition." The association employs one General, three District and fourteen special Secretaries. It raised and expended ten thousand dollars in the last ten months. Its able organ is the *Christian Statesman* of Philadelphia, edited by Rev. T. P. Stevenson, D. D., General Secretary.

#### COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE AND WARSHIPS.

*To the Editor of the Boston Transcript:* The armaments of Great Britain are sometimes called her "insurance against war." Mr. McLean, M. P., recently stated in debate that the nation had to pay for that insurance a tax of eight per cent. on her trade. Will the commercial men of America pay as much for so doubtful an insurance? Will the farmers pay more and get even less? Will the laborers tax themselves as much and work to earn it to keep fifty new ships rusting and rotting, twenty-five forts frowning but worthless, one hundred thousand sailors and soldiers to man the decaying vessels and useless forts? Oh, for "commercial," "granger" or even "prairie" politics in place of the show and swell of rich congressional noodles aided by mendicant officers and mercenary political fossils!

CITIZEN.

#### GERMANY AND FRANCE.

We are heartily glad that the French Government had the moral courage to accept the invitation of the German Emperor to the proposed Labor Conference at Berlin. Nothing could be more despicable than the attempt of the Boulangists to cast odium upon the French Ministry in consequence; and, as they draw their electoral support in Paris very largely from the working-classes, it is to be hoped that their conduct will assist in opening the eyes of the simple-minded electors, whom they have beguiled. This evil spirit, which would sacrifice the interests of the industrial classes of all Europe to the narrow national hatred, is the same spirit which in 1870 fomented the cry "à Berlin," and which throughout the

century has caused France untold misery. The possession of Alsace-Lorraine by Germany has nothing to do with this matter, or rather, it should lead thoughtful Frenchmen to seize upon every possible attempt to fraternize with the industrial classes of Germany.—*Arbitrator*.

#### AN INQUIRY UPON THE WAR SUBJECT.

JOSIAH W. LEEDS.

The New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church has clearly affirmed its position with respect to the allied evils of theatre going and dancing. We know where the Methodist Church generally stands in relation to liquor-drinking. Where are the Methodists as to the great evil of war? Do they hold with Wesley, who said: "Shall Christians assist the Prince of Hell, who was a murderer from the beginning, by telling the world the benefit of war?" And do they stand by Adam Clarke, where he pointedly asserts that "war is as contrary to the spirit of Christianity as murder; nothing can justify nations in shedding each other's blood."

Ought Christians to act on this faith and practice now, or are they to go right along with the world's estimate of fighting, and leave the testimony to assert itself in a millennium of the future when there shall be no cross-bearing, no self-denial in echoing the Christly declaration: "My kingdom is not of this world; were my kingdom of this world, then would my servants fight." The primitive Christians for three centuries fully believed and practised just this. Constantine, in a formal way, embraced Christianity, but in laying hold of the Bible with his left hand, he made sure that he and his legions had a good grip of sword and spear with the right.

Whither in this matter does the Holy Spirit lead us? Meekly to stand with Christ, the apostles, the disciples, and the believers of the first three centuries, or to train with Constantine and his martial successors, and, paraphrasing and altering the Divine commandment, stoutly say: "If thy enemy smite thee, smite back, and if he thrust at thee with the sword, kill him!" What are the arguments of those who are clamoring for a great navy worth, when read in the same hour with the Sermon on the Mount?—*Christian Standard*.

#### THE FORTUNE BAY TROUBLE.

The American Peace Society has addressed an official letter to the Governor General of Newfoundland, making inquiry as to the facts of an alleged "outrage" at Fortune Bay on the vessel *Rapid Transit*, which arrived at Gloucester, Mass., May 1, about which some serious complications are threatened. Newfoundland has never become a part of the Dominion of Canada. France and England have a trouble similar to that with America, under debate. The laws and treaties as to the fisheries need revision. We are glad the Dominion Parliament promptly renewed the *modus vivendi* till a treaty is made.

The days of the early Church were the days of its infancy, and was only the trial of men's bodies; but this is the day of trial of men's souls. A sword is not to be dreaded so much as a subtle poison in the air, such as malaria or sewer-gas. The early Church *had* the sword, we have the sewer-gas.—*Dr. Henson*.